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OLC RECORD COPY

*MFR*

OLC # 78-2246

12 July 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : HSCA Internal Security Problem

1. I received a telephone call from Mr. Blakey yesterday morning. He stated that a problem had arisen in the HSCA staff. Sensitive material received from a non-CIA source, concerning the Kennedy autopsy, seems to have been mishandled. One of the staff members noticed that certain photographs had been removed from their plastic containers although remaining in the book containing them. They do not know the significance of this but are concerned that it reflects an improper procedure within the HSCA staff.

2. The CIA employee who controls access to the safe in the special work area in HSCA had some general information about the way things were handled there. Mr. Blakey said that the CIA employee had been interviewed informally and our permission was requested to take a formal statement from him. Mr. Blakey indicated that it was the CIA employee's general observations only about procedure that were of interest. Mr. Blakey said that because of the question of the handling of the book he felt it was necessary to prepare a formal report for the Committee. I called the Director of Security and reported the problem, recommending that our employee be authorized to cooperate as requested. The Deputy Director of Security phoned me back and agreed to have the CIA employee instructed accordingly. At that time it was my understanding that our employee had not seen the material.

3. This morning, when the CIA employee in question visited our office, as he does routinely before going to the HSCA offices, I spoke with him about it. It developed that the notebook in question had been removed by HSCA staffers from the special safe in which it was kept, and then left on a window ledge. As much

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of the CIA employee's time is spent sitting and waiting he did idly leaf through the book and quickly recognized what it was. He states that he did not handle any of the pictures. I instructed him that he should not touch or read anything that is not kept in our safe. I also advised him that after answering questions for the record that, if he felt there was information not elicited from him about the way things go in the special area where he works, he should volunteer that information. I told him that if asked he should state that I suggested this to him.

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S.D. Breckinridge

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